

City of Covington Native Tree List*

(Proposed Administrative Guidelines)

Deciduous

Big Leaf Maple - *Acer macrophyllum*
Black Cottonwood - *Populus balsamifera*
Oregon Ash - *Fraxinus latifolia*
Red Alder - *Alnus rubra*
Black Hawthorn - *Crataegus douglasii*
Pacific Willow - *Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra*
Bitter Cherry - *Prunus emarginata*
Pacific Dogwood - *Cornus nuttallii*
Pacific Crabapple - *Malus fusca*
Cascara - *Rhamnus purshiana*
Western Beaked Hazelnut -
Corylus coruta var. californica
Scoulers Willow - *Salix scouleriana*
Sitka Willow - *Salix sitchensis*
Vine Maple - *Acer circinatum*
Pacific Ninebark - *Physocarpus opulifolius*
Serviceberry-Saskatoon -
Amelanchier alnifolia

Evergreen/Coniferous

Western Red Cedar - *Thuja plicata*
Sitka Spruce - *Picea sitchensis*
Douglas Fir - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
Grand Fir - *Abies grandis*
Western Hemlock - *Tsuga heterophylla*
Shore Pine - *Pinus contorta* variety
contorta (not Lodgepole pine)
Western White Pine - *Pinus monticola*
Western Yew - *Taxus brevifolia*
Pacific Madrone - *Arbutus menziesii*

*Northwest native trees

(Compiled from Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast, eds. Pojar and MacKinnon, 1994)



Who can I contact about tree preservation and permit requirements?

Contact City of Covington:

253-480-2400, dial 0 for reception

Report non-emergency issues in the city:

- Download the Covington Connects App for Apple or Android
- Or, begin a report online:
www.covingtonwa.gov/covingtonconnects/

This information is provided only as a general guide. Exact ordinance requirements may vary based upon site specific conditions.

Property owners are responsible for reviewing CMC 18.45 in its entirety to determine how the regulations apply to any specific property.



City of Covington
16720 SE 271st Street, Suite 100
Covington, WA 98042
253-480-2400
www.covingtonwa.gov

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CITY OF COVINGTON

Understanding the Tree Preservation Ordinance



TREE CITY USA®



Tree Preservation Ordinance

The tree preservation ordinance:

- Establishes regulations and procedures for preserving more existing trees, retaining desirable trees, and maintaining a viable tree canopy for the city,
- Allows cutting of hazard trees without city permit or fees (except critical areas),
- Helps balance reasonable development of property with reasonable preservation and enhancement of surrounding property values, and increase privacy for residential sites,
- Promotes building practices consistent with the city's natural topography, soils, and vegetation features,
- Restricts tree removal in critical areas,
- Preserves 15% of the existing significant trees on residentially subdivided property within designated tree tracts, and
- Enables city staff to administer code violations more effectively.

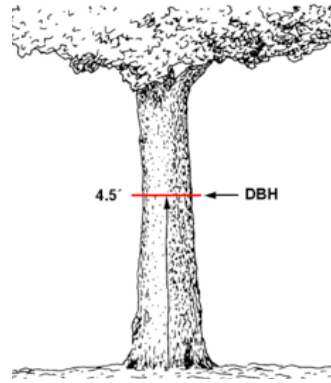


Are there exemptions from permits?

CMC 18.45.050 Exemptions from Tree Permits

The following activities or sites are exempt from the permit requirements of CMC 18.45.060, 18.45.070, and 18.45.080, unless they disturb any critical area or critical area buffer, or identified shoreline jurisdiction, or unless they cause a major adverse impact to runoff and diversion of storm water or streams, erosion, risk of landslide, infiltration of pollution into ground water, or major adverse impacts to safety and security of adjacent properties, as determined by the Community Development Department Director.

- **Sites with 20 significant trees or less** (healthy tree six inches DBH or larger).
- **Emergency removal of hazard trees** provided such removal is reported to the city within 10 days on a form provided by the city. This exemption shall not apply to existing trees located within designated tree tracts.
- **Normal or routine maintenance of existing trees** provided that said maintenance does not involve removal of healthy trees and is not detrimental to the health of any trees. Trenching or digging to a depth of greater than one foot within the critical root zone and tree topping is not allowed.
- **Commercial or wholesale nurseries or tree farms.**
- **Tree harvesting with a Forest Practices Permit** issued by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources under RCW 76.09.470.
- **Residential sites 1 acre or less or commercial or industrial sites 2 acres or less**, provided no critical areas or buffers are disturbed, and no land clearing, grading, or filling is involved.
- **Removal of trees on city-owned property for installation** of utilities and public facilities and maintenance of city property.
- **Limited removal of trees on existing developed residential tracts, 1-10 acres within 35 feet of an existing building footprint and 15 feet of an accessory building footprint.**
Exempted areas for tree removal are measured from the edge of a building wall, road, drive, or easement out to the critical root zones of any tree. Trees outside of the aforementioned 35 foot and 10 foot areas shall not be removed without tree removal permits.
- **Limited exemption for firewood removal on 10 acres or less.** Removal of up to 4 trees annually for personal use as firewood, not resale, from any residential land up to ten acres; provided the property owner does not remove trees below the minimum 20 tree threshold for tree preservation as required in CMC 18.45.080.



What if I don't meet an exemption?

- If property is regulated and tree preservation is required under the ordinance, either a minor tree removal permit or a major tree clearing permit will be required and each of these types of permits have different submittal and review requirements.
 - **Minor Tree Removal Permits:**
Removal of trees on 1-2 acre lots, or on property or easements granted to public utilities.
 - **Major Tree Clearing Permits:**
Removal of trees, clearing and grading of land with trees, shrubs, or other ground cover on 2+ acres.
- May be applied for as standalone permit or in conjunction with other associated land use applications or other permits.
- Commercial/industrial property: Only land on 2+ acres is regulated and only if it has more than 20 significant trees. No tree tracts are required, but a "Tree Enhancement Plan" is required with the developer deciding how many existing trees to preserve or replant, subject to city approval.

Review CMC 18.45.060 for information regarding the following:

- Permit & application submission requirements and fees
- Permit Review – Administrative provisions and authority
- Tree protection & fencing standards
- Tree removal surrounding existing or proposed building footprints.
- Additional permit restrictions or requirements.

